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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FORMER SACRAMENTO POSTAL CARRIER PLEADS GUILTY**  
**TO STEALING AND USING DOZENS OF DEBIT CARDS**

*A former rural route carrier who stole mail on her route*

SACRAMENTO—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that former U.S. Postal Service employee VIENGKEO "VICKY" PATHAMMAVONG, 33, of Sacramento, pleaded guilty today to access device fraud and theft of mail. The guilty pleas were entered before United States District Judge Frank C. Damrell who scheduled a sentencing hearing for July 17, 2006, at 9:30 A.M.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

According to Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) Camil A. Skipper, who is prosecuting the case, PATHAMMAVONG, a former rural route carrier, stole more than 200 debit cards (or "access devices") and the associated personal identification numbers from customers on her delivery route in 2005. The government alleged that PATHAMMAVONG, often disguised, used more than 50 debit cards to make fraudulent withdrawals and purchases totaling more than \$150,000. According to AUSA Skipper, the Postal Inspection Service executed a search warrant at PATHAMMAVONG's home in November and found more than 400 pieces of stolen mail. Postal inspectors also found 101 gift cards which the government believes were purchased with the stolen debit cards.

The maximum penalty under federal law for access device fraud is 15 years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000. The maximum penalty for theft of mail by a postal service employee is 5 years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000. Following the service of her sentence, PATHAMMAVONG will be placed on supervised release for a period of up to 3 years, unless she is deported from the United States.

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